

<i>Situational Report</i>
COVID-19 Mandate Protests Operational Impacts
February 5, 2022 – 16:00

Background

On January 15, 2022, an Order of Council (OIC) was put in place to mandate vaccinations for commercial truck drivers crossing the border. As a result, commercial truck drivers around the country have organized and started protesting outside port of entries (POEs) by blocking roads and slowing traffic, along with a convoy of commercial vehicles headed towards Ottawa to protest outside Parliament.

Bottom Line:

- Additional protests are expected across the country over the weekend as there are protests and counter-protests planned for Provincial capitals.
- Partner Agency reports several possible convoys may converge in Ottawa throughout the day on February 5, 2022. Police resources are preparing appropriately. Media report that up to 400 more trucks are expected in Ottawa.
- Protest activity this weekend with potential impact to CBSA processing at Coutts, Ambassador and (unconfirmed) Bluewater Bridge POEs.
- Coutts: Briefing with partner agencies suggests the weekend has the highest potential for protest escalation. Partners anticipate significant protest activities in and around the village of Coutts, the Port of Coutts, and the Highway leading from Lethbridge to Coutts on the weekend. Operational contingency plans are in place.
- Ambassador Bridge: A slow roll convoy of up to 100 passenger vehicles was underway in the vicinity of the Bridge at approximately 1300 hrs on February 5, 2022. Local Police are closely monitoring and traffic is moving freely. There is no impact to CBSA operations.
- Bluewater Bridge: A slow roll convoy is expected on February 6, 2022, with potential of a one hour highway blockade on Highway 402. Organizers state they will only block one lane of traffic.
- Media reports that GoFundMe has removed the 'Freedom Convoy 2022' fundraiser from its website and will stop payments to the organizers, citing reports of violence and harassment, violating the company's terms of service.

Upcoming protest events:

Upcoming Events		
ONGOING	CONFIRMED	UNCONFIRMED
• Ottawa – February 4 and 5, 2022, additional protesters to arrive on Parliament Hill • Coutts – North and south bound traffic is flowing with one lane open in each direction and gates	• Ottawa - February 5, 2022, 3 counter protests outside Ottawa Police HQ, Elgin Street • Rainbow Bridge 0945 ET, February 5, 2022. SOR reported ~50 car/truck slow roll passed through	CANADA: • Charlottetown – Protest to converge at cenotaph, February 5, 2022 • Windsor - Slow Roll February 4 to 6, 2022 • Vancouver – February 5, 2022, Freedom Convoy Protest

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are open. US CBP is maintaining a checkpoint to meter traffic to proceed to the Primary Inspection Line. Protestors continue to line the highway north of the POE.	with police escort. No impact to operations. - Ambassador Bridge - February 5, 2022. Slow roll convoy of ~100 vehicles near by the POE. - Quebec City – February 5, 2022, Freedom Convoy protest in the vicinity of the National Assembly buildings Trucks have begun arriving in Quebec City. - Toronto – February 5, 2022, Freedom Convoy protest. Farm vehicles arrived in the downtown core in advance of the protest.	- Victoria – February 5, 2022. From Campbell River across Vancouver Island until reaching the parliament building in Victoria. There are reports of planned counter protests. - February 5, 2022 12:00 MT- Coutts blockade. Media reports that there has been no movement to Edmonton. - Regina - February 5, 2022. Media reports possible demonstration at Saskatchewan legislature. - Sarnia - February 6, 2022. Slow roll convoy will block Hwy 402. - February 6, 2022 – partner information s.37 indicates potential commercial vehicle blockade at Peace Bridge SOR, and Montreal, QUE US: - Washington, US Capital - February 8 and 9, 2022, US Freedom Convoy EUROPE: - Brussels - Freedom Convoy Europe 2022 (Unconfirmed)
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US Protestors Identified at Port of Entries

- Reports received from CBSA POEs regarding Enhanced Vigilance Exams of potential protestors:

POE	Vehicle #	Enhanced vigilance exams (PAX #)	Direct Back	Allowed to Leave	Granted Entry	Comments
Pac Hwy Traffic, PAC	2	3	3	0		Wrong turns attempting to protest at Peace Arch Park.
Douglas, PAC	10	21	18	3		Wrong turns attempting to protest at Peace Arch Park.
Lansdowne, NOR	1	2			2	Journalists looking to document the protests in Ottawa. Provided necessary credentials and had equipment consistent with their stated purpose of travel.
Prescott, NOR	1	1			1	Unvaccinated Cdn citizen/US resident has been directed to quarantine by CBSA and PHAC

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Sault Ste. Marie, NOR	1	1	1			U.S. citizen attempting to join protest in Ottawa.
Total	15	28	22	3	3	

Atlantic Region

- On February 4, 2022, as of 1910 AT, multiple CBSA offices in NB and PEI reported they will be offering alternative services due to severe weather conditions. As of 1700hrs AT, the region reports severe weather may be impacting potential for protest activity,

Quebec Region

- As of February 4, 2022, Media reported that more than 100 vehicles, the first of several expected convoys, arrived in Quebec City in advance of a protest planned for Saturday, February 5, 2022 at the National Assembly buildings in support of the ongoing Ottawa protest.

Northern Ontario Region

No updates to report

Greater Toronto Area Region

- As of February 5, 2022, 1530 hrs ET, no impacts to CBSA operations have been reported. Media reports the main protest activity has moved from Queen's Park to Bloor St, with large trucks parked in the Avenue Road and Bloor St intersection. Emergency vehicles were reported to be slowed down due to protestors. There may be impacts to Billy Bishop and Pearson Airports and other CBSA offices in the area.

Southern Ontario Region

Blue Water Bridge

- As of February 5, 2022, at 1236 ET, SOR IEOD has received uncorroborated information from an LE partner that protestors are en-route to Sarnia Blue Water Bridge. The group anticipate a complete shut down of the bridge (Highway 402 towards Sarnia) on February 6, 2022. Group is suggesting they will be peaceful. SOR IEOD is monitoring.
- On February 4, 2022, at 1808 ET, SOR IEOD released an Intelligence Alert that a convoy / slow roll protest is planned for **Sunday, February 6, 2022**, departing Reece's Corners at 1000 ET, with a mix of farm equipment and personal vehicles. The large vehicles will enter the 402 highway and park in the left hand/slow lane for approx. 1 hour before continuing their route to City Hall. There is significant potential for Canada Inbound traffic to be impacted.

Ambassador Bridge

- On February 5, 2022, as of 1308 ET, a scheduled protest / slow roll convoy of ~100 vehicles passed by the Ambassador Bridge on Huron Church and Patricia Rd. A pick up truck briefly attempted to block lanes on Huron Church Rd. Windsor Police are on-site to ensure continued movement of traffic. Traffic is moving freely. Windsor Police posted a tweet about heavy traffic on Huron Church Road, encouraging the public to avoid the area. No media presence was noted.

Rainbow Bridge

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- On February 5, 2022, at 0945 ET, a scheduled slow roll protest of approx. 50 cars and trucks passed through the POE with a Niagara Regional Police Service escort. No media presence was noted, and no impact to operations.

Prairie Region

Commercial Traffic Volumes

# Passages (Persons)	This Week							Last Week						
	2022-01-29	2022-01-30	2022-01-31	2022-02-01	2022-02-02	2022-02-03	2022-02-04	2022-01-22	2022-01-23	2022-01-24	2022-01-25	2022-01-26	2022-01-27	#####
Coutts Travellers	202	22	20	11	9	44	74	234	253	188	251	177	232	286
Coutts Commercial*	262	23	0	0	0	72	121	397	372	361	349	479	588	519
Del Bonita	0	0	186	225	173	224	172	0	0	43	8	19	33	25
Carway	35	211	127	132	97	90	81	47	78	29	21	24	28	30
Aden	3	32	11	17	8	13	14	1	0	0	1	2	0	4
Other Commercial POEs														
Regway	39	78	66	117	85	103	85	41	30	57	40	46	64	63
Roosville	99	271	223	167	169	187	155	72	150	105	70	143	146	146
North Portal Travellers	73	83	72	69	53	66	94	43	35	74	59	48	71	73
North Portal Commercial	334	280	223	268	458	426	305	335	258	205	290	316	393	377

The CBSA temporarily expanded hours of service at two POEs in Alberta due to the ongoing protest and blockade in the immediate vicinity of the CBSA POE at Coutts, Alberta. Prairie Region is engaged with US CBP. The POEs are adjacent to the Coutts, AB POE and are designated under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) regulations to provide immigration services:

- [Carway, Alberta](#) – current temporary expanded hours: 0800 to 2200 MT (7 days per week);
- [Del Bonita, Alberta](#) – current temporary expanded hours: 0900 to 2200 MT (Monday to Friday)

CBSA and CBP are closely monitoring operations at ports of entry in Southern Alberta and may seek to expand operations to include Saturday and Sunday at Del Bonita should protest activity impede the highway north of Coutts. **CBSA Core Services has been engaged to ensure external website CBSA Directory reflects expanded hours.**

Traders and commercial carriers will continue to be advised that three adjacent commercial ports of entry remain available at Regway SK, North Portal, SK and Roosevelt, BC.

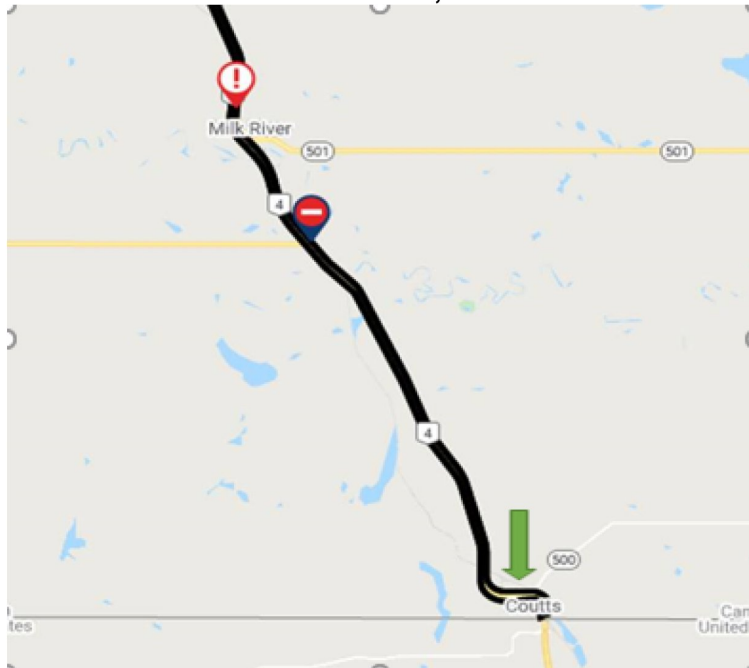
Coutts

- As of February 5, 2022, at 15:06 ET, the situation at POE Coutts remains unchanged. Traffic continues to access one lane but could quickly become another blockade.
- The region reports increasing activity expected at the RCMP-held checkpoint10 (CP10) near Milk River, AB today (see map below). The second group of protestors at CP10 is now understood to be a second illegal protest site.
RCMP tweet: <https://twitter.com/RCMPAlberta/status/1489793151405592580>
 - RCMP are anticipating potential impacts to international travel, particularly southbound as that is where the majority of the CP10 protest is set up.
 - A protest out of Brooks, AB is linked to Coutts. The protest will be a slow roll on Highway #1 (Trans-Canada), but will stop and block if the talks at Coutts are not satisfactory
- RCMP are anticipating significant protest activities in and around the village of Coutts, the port of Coutts, and the highway leading from Lethbridge to Coutts on the weekend. Their focus is on managing the protesters (300-400) in the area on horseback and crowds expected to accumulate. Protestors on horseback plan to ride down to the village of Coutts and into the rodeo grounds which are located along the border. A contingent of horseback riders may be arriving on the US side (adjacent to the rodeo grounds).
- Increased discussion with the RCMP in terms of their sustained presence at the POE (as a command post). POE can accommodate.

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- Operational contingency plan in place and contingency plan has been developed in the event employees have to remain at POE or in vicinity beyond the conclusion of their shifts
- US Tow Truck Drivers attendance will be triggered at RCMP request and they will be responsible for informing the tow companies of vaccination requirements for entering Canada. RCMP has proactively contacted up to 20 tow companies in Montana and almost all have indicated they would NOT attend. Entrance will be coordinated by Chief Operations if/when request comes.
- As of February 4, 2022, at 1730 ET, the region reports that There are two groups of protestors on the highway near the POE. The original group close to Coutts POE and the other at the intersection of Hwy 4 and 501. Both are allowing traffic through.

Protest locations north of Coutts, AB POE:



Note: The green arrow is the original protestors and the top indicates the RCMP and second group

- As of February 4, 2022, Media reports that the organizers of the protestors impeding access to Coutts POE have reversed their previous decision to move the protest to Edmonton.

Carway

No updates to report

Emerson

No updates to report

North Portal

No updates to report

Pacific Region

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- As of February 5, 2022 as of 15:00hrs ET, Media reports that small protests are occurring in Vancouver. There have been no reports of impacts to CBSA Operations.

Intelligence and Enforcement

BLUF: As of February 5, 2022 at 13:30ET, the overall threat to CBSA officers and infrastructure is low.

ANALYSIS:

General Threats

- **No change to posture.** According to the RCMP, no formal organized plot of violence has been identified. Factors such as the circulation of misinformation, exhaustion, substance abuse, altercations amongst protesters and with law enforcement and the influence of ideologically motivated actors or charismatic speakers may impact the temperature of the crowd. The potential for violence by a lone actor or fringe group cannot be discounted.
- Romana Didulo is now in Ottawa and was filmed burning a Canadian flag on Parliament Hill. Didulo is a QAnon online influencer with an estimated 73,000 followers in Canada and the US. Over the last 1.5 years Didulo has issued a series of anti-vaccination messages to her growing number of followers. Following her instructions some of her followers in both Canada and the US have been delivering fake "Cease and Desist" orders to government, law enforcement, health and education officials that they believe are involved in administering or enforcing COVID vaccinations or government mandated health restrictions. On November 10, 2021 an individual identified as **Personal Info** hand delivered a fake "Cease and Desist" order to the BSOs working at the Carson POE in PAC region. "Cease and Desist" orders were also delivered in 2021 to the Carson, Cascade, Paterson, Waneta, Nelway, Rykerts, & Kingsgate POEs. Didulo refers to her armed followers as "Duck Hunters" and has previously urged her armed followers to kill individuals involved in administering the COVID vaccination program and also any individuals who enforce government mandated COVID restrictions or requirements for vaccination. CIG received reports that a member of the public who claimed to work for CBSA (unconfirmed) was at the Marriott/Hampton Inn near the old RCMP HQ and stated that she heard Queen Romana DIDULO/Queen of Canada was planning to bomb Parliament via the tunnel system. No other information was obtained as the complainant stated they had to go and drove off to possibly do security at the parking lot where the truckers have been staying all week next to the hotel. Vehicle plate was snow covered. CIG could not corroborate these claims at this time. RCMP INSET has been notified. **CBSA NOR Intelligence continuing to monitor situation.**
- There is currently no confirmed end time for the demonstrations in Ottawa. With Ottawa police expecting additional convoys this weekend, an increased police presence has been approved with RCMP sending more officers to support OPS. Local citizens are also continuing to react to the disruption caused by the protest, with an online petition and **possible counter-protests planned.** The mounting frustration on both sides may lead to violent confrontations, which may pose a threat to the CBSA NHQ building located four blocks south of the Parliament Hill.
- RCMP reporting states: Canada-wide solidarity actions have occurred simultaneously with the demonstration in Ottawa and more are being planned for this coming weekend, some of which may affect Canada-US border operations (currently there are no reported operational impacts from the POEs). As the situation in Ottawa is receiving widespread coverage, actions in Ottawa may continue to influence impromptu events in other Canadian provinces.
- **Pac Hwy Slow Roll currently 24 going/ 57 interested , still planning on splintering from main convoy that's rolling to Vancouver and claim that protesters from main convoy may circle back to it after going to CTV, but have also stated if they don't have enough numbers they will just join the main convoy to Vancouver instead. So far the convoy is proceeding towards Vancouver but the convoy is very long and still on Highway One.**
- **Personal Info.** Event in BC provided a Facebook Live Update at 6:00 pm yesterday. Appears to have shifted away from organizing his own Lower Mainland event (or is staying very tight lipped about it if he is). Instead is promoting the "Bearhug" event at Victoria parliament a.k.a. "a mirror event to Ottawa" and has stated there are several groups heading to the Island but if unable to get on a ferry or "if needed somewhere else" will divert.

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- Osoyoos Convoy updated time/routing shows they may arrive as early as 2:15pm. A private telegram channel for this event has 30 members.

POE Threats

- An ongoing analysis of SRT reporting, OSINT, s.38 indicates that there are no credible threats currently identified for any POE.
- Information from the RCMP, the media and social media indicate that the protesters at Coutts discussed moving to Edmonton, perhaps influenced by a number of United Conservative Party MLAs who expressed their support for lifting COVID restrictions. Currently the protesters at Coutts have not left the area and are continuing their protests at Coutts and Milk River approximately 20 kilometres north of Coutts. Media reports indicate that the protesters have brought in supplies to continue the protests at the current locations.
- Slow roll convoy taking place in Windsor near the Ambassador Bridge beginning at approximately 1115 hours, with 65-80 cars and pickup trucks looping past the POE. As of 1140 hours, the slow roll convoy in Windsor is growing with approximately 100+ cars / pickup trucks involved. Windsor Police has posted a tweet about heavy traffic on Huron Church Road (the approach to Ambassador Bridge). 1 pick-up truck blocked the south bound lane of Huron Church road, but currently there are no cars/trucks blocking the North lane of Huron Church at College Ave. Uncorroborated reporting indicates that the protesters may attempt a complete blockage of the bridge. No impact to operations noted at this time.
- SOR has received credible information from the OPP that a convoy / slow roll is planned in the area of the Blue Water Bridge in Sarnia on Sunday, February 6, 2022, with potential of a blockade using farm tractors. There is significant potential that traffic coming into Canada will be impacted. Reporting indicates that the Slow Roll convoy on February 6th has the potential of a one hour highway blockade on Highway 402, with organizers stating they will only block one lane of traffic. SOR IOED has received uncorroborated information from reliable source that protestors are en-route to Sarnia Blue Water Bridge. The group anticipate a complete shut down of the bridge (Highway 402 towards Sarnia). Currently there is no reported no impact to operations.
- Slow roll convoy took place in Niagara Falls near the Rainbow Bridge at approximately 0945hours with 50-60 cars and pickup trucks looping past the POE a few times. Niagara Regional Police Service was monitoring the event; no impact to operations.
- No update. A Toronto group aligning itself with Freedom Convoy 2022 protesters in Ottawa is circulating flyers on social media calling for a protest against COVID-19 restrictions and mandates at Toronto's Queen Park on Saturday, Feb. 5. There is no indication, at this time, that this planned protest will be directed to either of Toronto's major airports.
- In addition to the event in Ottawa, a Mariners for Freedom vessel parade is being planned across Canada, reportedly aiming to "protest in ports and all over Canadian shipping lanes." The movement's Facebook page had gained over 7,000 members by 01 Feb, and an additional 5,000 members over the next few days. The event was planned for 04 Feb at participant ports, but currently there is no reporting to indicate that any marine protests took place. While disruptive activity was not considered for 04 Feb, consideration is being given to disrupting commercial marine transportation in future events should demands not be met.
- NOR Officer encountered a traveler who identified that they are entering Canada to join the demonstration in Ottawa. Client is a Canadian citizen, US PR and known to officers at this CBSA office. Client lives in the United states but has been in Canada for a month (to attend to her fathers estate) and has been downtown Ottawa daily for the week long demonstration. She had returned to the USA briefly.

Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE)

- No change to posture. According to the RCMP, while chatter encouraging peaceful and lawful protest continues to circulate, concerns exist that protest events associated with the convoy could be exploited by individuals who engage in or promote actions that pose a risk to public and officer safety. While IMVE persons of interest and indicators have been observed in Ottawa, this has not been observed at POE protests.

Other Threats

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- **No update.** According to social media, the Ottawa Police Chief says that there is funding from the US as well as Canada fueling the protests. He is quoting national security sources who raise concerns about foreign funding as well. OSINT has multiple news articles stating that the Go Fund Me account has now been cancelled. All donors may submit a request for a full refund until February 19th, 2022. OSINT identified givesendgo.com/FreedomConvoy2022 as an alternative platform for donations. As of 2040hrs Feb 04 \$100k has been raised. The CBSA has not yet seen any indication of foreign funding or HASA activity connected to this fund raising, but given the large amount of anonymous donors it cannot be disregarded.
- **Ongoing threat.** The size, unorganized potential and general distraction of some these POE protests continue to create conditions where both criminal actors and migrants may use the events to illegally cross the border into Canada. This may also include protesters who wish to join events on the Canadian side of the border, but do not want to report to Border Service Officers.
- US news sites are reporting that Facebook has removed the Facebook pages associated to "Convoy to D.C. 2022" being used to organize truckers to drive from California to Washington D.C. Media reporting states that Facebook has also removed the pages for the other planned US-based protest convoys originating in Texas and Florida. Social media and news websites in the US indicated that there is an online movement, which was focused on Facebook pages entitled "Freedom Convoy 2022", to organize protest convoys of US truckers from Texas and Florida which would converge on Washington D.C. with tentative planned arrival time in D.C. of February 8th. The organizers of Freedom Convoy 2022 reportedly moved their online operations to Telegram, with at least 28,000 individuals joining that Telegram page. There is no reporting at this time to indicate that the proposed US convoys plan to enter Canada

Communications

- **On February 4, 2022, CBSA Media Relations closed four Coutts-related media calls. On the morning of February 5, 2022, there is one media call open, seeking an update on the Coutts border.**

Other Governmental Departments

- As of February 3, 2022 – Transport Canada has issued NOTAMs for airspace restrictions over the following areas:

Parliament Hill - extended until February 7, 2022
 Queen's Park, Toronto - until February 9, 2022
 Coutts, (Milk River) Alberta – until February 9, 2022
 Quebec City – until Feb 8, 2022

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